

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
USMISSION GENEVA
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E.O. 11652: N/A

AGS: SENV, UNEP

SUBJECT: FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE 1973 ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION, BERN, SWITZERLAND, NOV. 2-6, 1976

REFERENCE: STATE 245987 (NOTAL), STATE 264213 (NOTAL);
BERN 5138 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVES OF TWENTY-FOUR TREATY PARTIES, TWELVE OBSERVER COUNTRIES, AND SEVERAL INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS MET IN BERN, SWITZERLAND ON NOVEMBER 2-6, 1976, FOR THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE 1973 CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (REFTELS). THE SESSION WAS NOTABLY HARMONIOUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE IN TONE AND OUTPUT. SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WAS ACHIEVED ON THE MEETINGS ESSENTIAL TASK,
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WHICH WAS PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION SO AS TO MAKE IT AN EFFECTIVE WORKING AGREEMENT. CRITERIA WERE ESTABLISHED FOR EVALUATING SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE CONVENTION'S APPENDICES LISTING ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES, AND ACTION WAS COMPLETED ON A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF THE MORE PRESSING CHANGES PROPOSED. THE CONFERENCE DREW UP AND APPROVED A RECOMMENDED BLUEPRINT FOR REINFORCING THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT, TO BE FORWARDED FOR PRIORITY ACTION BY UNEP. AN INTERIM TECHNICAL SESSION OF THE PARTIES WILL BE HELD IN MID-1977 TO CARRY FORWARD WORK ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION AND TO CONTINUE THE SCIENTIFIC REVIEW OF THE APPENDICES. A STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE PARTIES WAS FORMED, WHOSE FIRST TASK WILL BE PRE-

PARATIONS FOR THIS MEETING. THE CONFEREES DECIDED TO HOLD THE NEXT REGULAR CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES IN SPRING OF 1978; GHANA HAS OFFERED ACCRA AS THE SITE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE 1973 ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION WAS HELD IN BERN, NOV. 2-6, 1976, ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM 24 (OUT OF THE CURRENT TOTAL OF 33) TREATY PARTIES: AUSTRALIA, CANADA, ECUADOR, CHILE, FINLAND, GDR, FRG, GHANA, INDIA, IRAN, MALAGASY REP., MAURITIUS, MOROCCO, NIGERIA, NORWAY, PAKISTAN, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PERU, SOUTH AFRICA, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, UK, US, ZAIRE; PLUS OBSERVERS FROM 12 NON-TREATY PARTY COUNTRIES: AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DENMARK, FRANCE, HUNGARY, LIBYAN ARAB REP, NETHERLANDS, PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, SUDAN, THAILAND; AND THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS: UNEP, THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (IUCN), WHO, EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH (UK), ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF BIRDS (UK), WORLD PHEASANT ASSOC. (UK), INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BIRD PRESERVATION, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION (US), SOCIETY FOR ANIMAL PROTECTION LEGISLATION (US), SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL (US), AND THE SWISS OFFICE OF FAR EAST TRADE SERVICE, INC. (REPUBLIC OF CHINA TRADING ORGANIZATION). THE MEETING CHAIRMAN WAS PROF. A. NABHOLZ, HEAD OF THE SWISS FEDERAL VETERINARY OFFICE AND LEADER OF THE SWISS DELEGATION. THE US DELEGATION WAS LED BY MR. E.U. CURTIS BOHLEN, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE AND PARKS, UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR, WITH MR. LYNN GREENWALT, DIRECTOR, US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, DOI, AS ALTERNATE US REP.

2. SECRETARIAT--THE CONFERENCE ADOPTED A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNEP, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE UNDER THE CONVENTION FOR PROVIDING THE SECRETARIAT AND HAS CONTRACTED WITH IUCN FOR THE PURPOSE, TO, REINFORCE THE SECRETARIAT SO AS TO ENABLE IT TO CARRY ITS INCREASING WORKLOAD AND MEET ITS FULL RESPONSIBILITIES AS DEFINED BY THE CONVENTION. THE RESOLUTION ALSO CALLED UPON THE PARTIES TO GIVE STRONG SUPPORT ON THIS QUESTION AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL. ATTACHED TO THE RESOLUTION WAS A PAPER DRAWN UP AND APPROVED BY THE CONFERENCE, ANALYZING THE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS TO BE PERFORMED BY A STRENGTHENED SECRETARIAT AND ESTIMATING THAT A STAFF OF ELEVEN PERSONS WOULD BE NECESSARY. THE UNEP REPS PRESENT (THACHER AND CURRY--LINDAHL) PROMISED THAT THE CONFERENCE RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD RECEIVE CAREFUL STUDY AND THAT PRELIMINARY STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN TO ENABLE THE SECRETARIAT TO MEET MORE READILY ITS IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS, PENDING CONSIDERATION OF LONGER TERM NEEDS AT THE MAY 1977 UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING; THE UNEP REPS NOTED THAT IN

VIEW OF THE WIDE RANGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS UNEP WAS CALLED UPON TO SUPPORT AND THE NECESSITY TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE AMONG THEM, IT MIGHT NOT BE IN A POSITION TO UNDERWRITE IN FULL THE SECRETARIAT FUNCTION AS ENVISAGED IN THE CONFERENCE PAPER; THEY SUGGESTED THAT THE PARTIES CONSIDER MAKING UP THE DIFFERENCE BY ESTABLISHING A UNEP-ADMINISTERED TRUST TO RECEIVE DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE PARTIES FOR THE PURPOSE--A CONTINGENCY ON WHICH THE PARTIES COULD DECIDE AT THEIR NEXT CONFERENCE.

3. THE CONFERENCE ADOPTED A U.S. RECOMMENDATION THAT DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES OF THE PARTIES IN ORDER TO ENABLE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF THE CONVENTION.

4. THE CONFERENCE RESOLVED TO ESTABLISH A STEERING COMMITTEE, MADE UP OF REPS FROM CANADA, ECUADOR, GHANA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, UK AND US, WHOSE FIRST TASK WOULD BE TO COORDINATE WITH THE SECRETARIAT ON ORGANIZATION OF A UNCLASSIFIED

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SPECIAL WORKING OR TECHNICAL SESSION WITHIN 6 MONTHS TO ONE YEAR FOR PURPOSES OF: (A) DEVELOPING IDENTIFICATION AIDS; (B) DEVELOPING GUIDELINES ON CARE AND SHIPMENT OF LIVE SPECIMENS; (C) CONSIDERATION OF PROBLEMS CONCERNING CONTROL OF "READILY RECOGNIZABLE PARTS AND DERIVATIVES" OF LISTED SPECIES; (D) CONSIDERATION OF A SIMPLIFIED METHOD OF MARKING SHIPMENTS OF PRESERVED ANIMAL SPECIMENS TO FACILITATE EXCHANGE BETWEEN REGISTERED SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS; AND (E) ANALYSIS OF APPENDICES I AND II FOR SCIENTIFIC VALIDITY. THE SWISS DEL OFFERED SWITZERLAND AS THE SITE FOR THIS MEETING.

5. THE CONFERENCE ADOPTED A U.S. PROPOSAL THAT THE PARTIES SHOULD REQUIRE DOCUMENTATION FROM NON-TREATY PARTIES EQUIVALENT TO THAT REQUIRED OF THE PARTIES THEMSELVES FOR ALL TRADE IN LISTED FAUNA AND FLORA. IT WAS ALSO DECIDED THAT ANY LISTED SPECIES OR PARTS AND DERIVATIVES THEREOF, WHICH WERE SUBJECT TO RESERVATION BY ANY PARTY, MUST BE TREATED BY OTHER PARTIES AS IF COMING FROM A NON-PARTY.

6. THE CONFERENCE DECIDED NOT TO ADOPT ANY STANDARDIZED FORMS FOR IMPORT PERMITS AND CERTIFICATES ISSUED UNDER THE CONVENTION, PENDING FURTHER EXPERIENCE IN THAT FIELD.

7. TO REDUCE DEMAND FOR ADDITIONAL SCIENTIFIC SPECIMENS, THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED THAT INVENTORIES BE TAKEN OF EXISTING SPECIMENS OF ENDANGERED FAUNA AND FLORA PRESENTLY ON HAND IN MUSEUMS AND HERBARIA. THE CONFERENCE ADOPTED A SIMPLE METHOD OF MARKING SHIPMENTS OF HERBARIUM SPECIMENS TO FACILITATE EXCHANGE BETWEEN HERBARIA AND

RECOMMENDED A STUDY OF SIMILAR METHODS TO FACILITATE EXCHANGE OF PRESERVED ANIMAL SPECIMENS BETWEEN MUSEUMS.

8. THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED GRADUAL RESTRICTION ON TRADE IN WILD ANIMALS AS PETS, RECOMMENDING FURTHER THAT THE PARTIES ENCOURAGE CAPTIVE BREEDING FOR THIS PURPOSE WITH THE AIM OF EVENTUALLY LIMITING PETS ONLY TO THOSE SPECIES WHICH CAN BE BRED IN CAPTIVITY.

9. THE CONFERENCE APPROVED A RESOLUTION URGING THOSE UNCLASSIFIED

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NATIONS NOT FULLY PARTICIPATING IN THE CONVENTION TO RATIFY OR ACCEDE TO IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND, UNTIL THEN, TO ACT IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CONVENTION. THE SECRETARIAT WAS INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY THE RESOLUTION AND THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS TO ALL SUCH COUNTRIES.

10. THE CONFERENCE ADOPTED CRITERIA PROPOSED BY THE U.S. TO GOVERN ADDITION OR DELETION OF SPECIES IN THE CONVENTION'S APPENDICES I (THOSE THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION) AND II (THOSE THAT MAY BECOME THREATENED IF TRADE IS NOT REGULATED). DECISIONS WERE ALSO TAKEN TO CLARIFY THE USE OF APPENDIX III (SPECIES FOR WHICH A NATION REQUESTS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN CONTROLLING TRADE). ACTION WAS TAKEN AT THE CONFERENCE ON CERTAIN GROUPS OF FLORA AND FAUNA FROM THE LONG LIST OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE APPENDICES, ACCORDING TO AN ORDER OF PRIORITY SUGGESTED BY THE U.S. SINCE THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO TAKE UP ALL OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES, THE CONFERENCE DECIDED THAT THE PARTIES WOULD RECONSIDER THOSE NOT ACTED UPON IN BERN AND WOULD RESUBMIT SUBSEQUENTLY THOSE WHICH MET THE CRITERIA ADOPTED AT THIS CONFERENCE. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES AGREED UPON AT THE MEETING INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

(A) PLANTS: TWO MAJOR TREE FERN FAMILIES, CYATHEACEAE AND DICKSONIACEAE, WERE ADDED TO APP. II, AS WERE THOSE CYCADS NOT ALREADY LISTED. NO PLANTS WERE ADDED TO OR DELETED FROM APP. I.

(B) PRIMATES: ALL PRIMATES NOT PREVIOUSLY COVERED BY THE CONVENTION WERE ADDED TO APP. II. CERTAIN SPECIES, INCLUDING ALL CHIMPANZEES, LEMURS AND FIVE SPECIES OF MARMOSETS WERE PUT ON APP. I. THE US AND UK DELEGATES URGED THAT EXPORTING COUNTRIES FAVOR BIOMEDICAL DEMANDS FOR MARMOSETS, WHILE REDUCING OR ELIMINATING THEIR SUPPLY TO THE PET TRADE. THE US OFFERED TO DO A REVIEW OF THE MARMOSET FAMILY BEFORE THE NEXT CONFERENCE.

(C) WHALES: A US PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED TO LIST POPULATIONS OF FIN AND SEI WHALES IN APP. I AND II, CONSISTENT WITH THE 1976 INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION REGULATION

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(D) FUR BEARING MAMMALS: THE WOLF, OTTER, FUR SEALS AND ALL OF THE CATS WERE ADDED TO APP. II. THE ASIATIC LION AND EUROPEAN OTTER WERE PLACED ON APP. I.

(E) ELEPHANT: THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT WAS PLACED ON APP. II, WITH ITS STATUS TO BE RECONSIDERED AT THE PARTIES' NEXT MEETING.

(F) RHINOS: ACTION WAS TAKEN TO INCLUDE ALL RHINOS ON APP. I, A DECISION STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE AFRICAN NATIONS PRESENT. THE U.S. OFFERED TO MAKE A STUDY OF AFRICAN RHINO SPECIES FOR THE TECHNICAL MEETING NEXT YEAR.

(G) BIRDS OF PREY: THE ENTIRE SPECIES OF BALD EAGLE AND PEREGRINE FALCON WERE PUT ON APP. I. THE OSPREY AND EAGLES OF GENERA AQUILA AND HALIAETUS WERE INCLUDED AMONG ADDITIONS TO APP. II. THE U.S. INDICATED THAT IT WOULD CIRCULATE A PROPOSAL FOR POSTAL VOTING WHICH WOULD ADD ALL SPECIES OF FALCONIFORMES (HAWKS, EAGLES, AND FALCONS) TO APP. II

(H) CROCODILES: A SUGGESTION TO REMOVE CERTAIN SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES FROM APP. I WAS CHALLENGED BY THE AFRICAN REPS. THE FAMILIES ALLIGATORIDAE AND CROCODYLIDAE WERE PUT ON APP. II BUT CERTAIN SPECIES WERE RETAINED ON OR ADDED TO APP. I

(I) SEA TURTLES: AFTER MUCH DEBATE OVER PROPOSALS TO INCLUDE ALL SPECIES ON APP. I OR ALTERNATIVELY, APP. II, IT WAS DECIDED BY MAJORITY VOTE TO ADD THE LOGGERHEAD, PACIFIC RIDLEY, HAWKSBILL, LEATHERBACK AND GREEN TURTLE (EXCEPT FOR AUSTRALIAN POPULATIONS) TO APP. I.

(J) LIZARDS: AFRICAN CHAMELEONS, IGUANAS, DAY GECKOS, AND THE GILA LIZARD WERE PUT ON APP. II.

(K) SNAKES: THE FAMILY BOIDAE, INCLUDING ALL PYTHONS AND BOAS, WAS ADDED TO APP. II, EXCEPT FOR CERTAIN MADAGASCAR AND MAURITIUS SPECIES WHICH WERE PUT ON APP. I.

(L) A NUMBER OF OTHER SPECIES INCLUDING SOME PARROTS, AND LIZARDS AND FISH WERE ALSO ADDED TO THE APPENDICES BY UNCLASSIFIED

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THE CONFEREES.

11. NEXT CONFERENCE--IT WAS DECIDED TO HOLD THE NEXT REGULAR CONFERENCE IN SPRING OF 1978. THE GHANAIAN REP

CONVEYED HIS GOVERNMENT'S OFFER OF ACCRA AS THE SITE.
THIS INVITATION WAS WELCOMED BY THE CONFEREES AS LIKELY
TO GENERATE WIDER INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION IN WORK OF
THE CONVENTION AMONG AFRICAN NATIONS, WHOSE SUPPORT IS
CONSIDERED SO IMPORTANT TO ITS SUCCESS.DETAILED ARRANGE-
MENTS WILL BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE GHANAIAAN AUTHORITIES
AND THE SECRETARIATIN CONSULTATION WITH THE NEWLY
FORMED STEERING COMMITTEE.

12. FOR MOSCOW: US DEL AT SUBJECT MEETING LEARNED FROM
THE SECRETARIAT THATTHEUSSR HAD JUST RATIFIED THE CON-
VENTION, BUT HAD NOT YET COMPLETED FULL DEPOSITORY
PROCEDURE TO BECOME A TREATY PARTY. NO SOVIET REP OR
OBSERVER TURNED UP AT THE MEETING. KISSINGER

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To: CANBERRA
OTTAWA
QUITO
SANTIAGO
HELSINKI
BERLIN

BONN
ACCRA
NEW DELHI
TEHRAN
TANANARIVE
PORT LOUIS
RABAT
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PARIS
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